

Councilman Loguercio and Town Board Set Public Hearing to Determine Fate of Long-Vacant Kmart in Middle Island

posted on 2/26/2016 1:15:00 PM



Farmingville, NY – At the February 25 Town Board Meeting, a resolution sponsored by Councilman Michael Loguercio (pictured) was adopted that set a public hearing for April 7 to determine the fate of the long vacant Kmart building in Middle Island. The public hearing will be held at 6:30 pm in the 2nd floor auditorium at Town Hall.

The Kmart property, located at 1075 Middle Country Road, has been empty for nearly a decade. It has become a dangerous eyesore and the target of vandals over the years. At the request of the Town of Brookhaven Building Department, the engineering firm of Cashin, Spinelli, & Ferretti, LLC inspected the building on October 30, 2015 and found that it represents a health and safety hazard and should be removed. Civic organizations and area residents have complained for years about the condition of the building and parking lot and Town has issued numerous code violations to the property owner. If the Town board determines the building to be "unsafe," it will be demolished in accordance with Chapter 73 of the Town Code, which provides a "fast track" to rid neighborhoods of unsafe structures. The cost of demolition and debris removal is the responsibility of the property owner. The Town places a lien on the property that is then placed on the tax bill. The County reimburses the Town and they collect the money from the property owner.

Supervisor Ed Romaine said, "The Kmart property has been a blight in Middle Island for too many years and I commend Councilman Loguercio for taking swift action so soon after taking office. We have been working hard to rid our community of abandoned, unsafe houses and commercial properties all over the Town and removing this one will have a huge impact on the quality of life in the community."

Councilman Loguercio said, "Town officials and the Middle Island community have tried to work with the owner for many years to find a solution. In that time, the property has deteriorated and something needs to be done now. I urge residents to attend the public hearing and let their voices be heard, so we can finally remove this eyesore and clean up the property."

"This week we met with the attorney and associates for the owner of the former Kmart site in Middle Island," commented Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico. "The message that we conveyed at this meeting was crystal clear - either you take down the blighted building or we will. I commend Councilman Loguercio for taking a leadership role on this issue during his first few months in office. It is clear that he is serious about cleaning up the community."

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

One Independence Hill • Farmingville • NY 11738 • Phone 631-451-6595